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SUBJECT George Perry

TOM MCGEE: A body recovered earlier this month from a New York State lake has been identified as that of a former General Motors executive. As CNN's Jeanie Most reports, the case that he makings of a major murder mystery.

JEANIE MOST: How did George Perry get from New York's Hyatt Hotel to the bottom of Lake Tiradi (?), 45 miles away? Why did someone shoot Perry in the head three times and tie weights to his legs to sink the body? Well, police don't know what prompted the murder.

At the time of his death, Perry was working as an international trade consultant for a Brazilian company. That involved worldwide travel, as did his previous job as an executive for General Motors. Because Perry traveled abroad so much, he was occasionally debriefed by the State Department or the CIA, but the State Department has not confirmed to local authorities that Perry was working for the government when he was murdered.

Nevertheless, state police investigators are looking into the theory that Perry wound up in Lake Tiradi because of intelligence connections. They are also checking into the possibility, however remote, that Perry might have been somehow involved in drug trafficking.

Police do know that Perry checked into the Grand Hyatt intending to fly to Zurich, Switzerland. [Technical difficulties]. Perry's family reported him missing. His body was discovered by fishermen three months later.

Authorities aren't even sure whether Perry was a good

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guy or a bad guy. Right now they're leaning toward the good guy theory, figuring Perry was murdered either because he crossed someone or because he uncovered something.